

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action dated May 31, 2006, is respectfully requested in view of this response. Claims 15-24 and 27 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of this response.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner objected to the drawings and rejected claims 15-24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Katsutoshi (Japanese Patent Document 2001-076370) in view of Katayama, et al., (US Patent No. 6,980,505, hereinafter *Katayama*).

SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTE DRAWINGS

Substitute drawings are submitted herewith, indicating "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner in Figs. 1-5. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to the drawings included herewith obviates the objection. In light of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 15-24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over *Katsutoshi* in view of *Katayama*. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Response

Applicant traverses this rejection on the basis of the priority date of the present application preceding the effective date of the reference under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §103(a). The publication date of *Katayama* is September 16, 2002, while the priority date of the present application is June 28, 2002.

Also, in connection with this, Applicant is submitting herewith an English translation of Japanese Patent Application 2002-191506, which is the priority document to the present

application. Applicant asserts priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, over *Katayama*, thereby overcoming the rejection of claims 15-24 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and the case be passed to issuance.

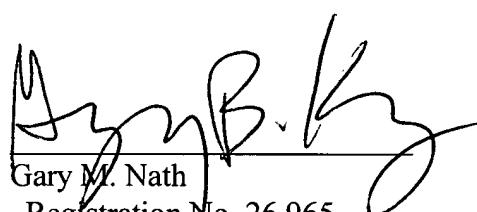
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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